

From: Seth Alan Kintigh
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement, my suggestion

I realize my opinion is meaningless to an administration so wholly and completely owned by campaign contributors, but here goes.

After MS was found guilty so many times of antitrust violations in federal court, I'm appalled that the DOJ would sell out and settle at all, never mind craft a "settlement" in which MS donates a "billion" dollars worth of software to schools, i.e. helping them while causing no harm. Even excluding the fact they have been found guilty of illegally holding prices high, that software donation could conceivably cost them \$0.35 for a CDR of the license numbers and some bandwidth for the downloads- software, e-manuals and all. In return the country would have a bigger monopoly and schools full of buggy, insecure software, requiring schools to spend money hiring IT personal to keep it running.

In the future, you need to be a little more sneaky when taking bribes, I mean contributions, as no one but Bill Gates would think that settlement was a good idea. Well, maybe Enron or one of your other owners, I mean contributors, would.

Now here's my suggestion. It's fair and logical, so there's no chance of it happening, but I'm stubborn.

Fact: MS has crushed other business, destroyed companies, and hurt people like me using anti-competitive practices, even "vaporware" to kill companies back here in New England just to keep them from innovating. Therefore, a settlement that only helps MS and does not harm them is NOT fair (emphasized for the less intelligent).

Therefore, a FAIR settlement would harm MS. This is called "punishment."

Now, the problem is to find a punishment that also helps America, and prevents future abuse, while not destroying MS. One obvious solution is to split MS into two companies: one that makes Windows, and one that makes applications for windows. I think we'll find that the second company will even make their products work on other OSes like Linux, as that is logical, and the only reason MS doesn't do that now is because they are being anti-competitive.

One could also split them into 3 companies, the third being an Internet division, but I'm sure people far smarter than me could better explain that idea.